

SB56

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 1.26.09

BILL NO. SB56

January 23, 2009

Senator John Esp, Chairman
Local Government Committee
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT. 59620-0500

Re:

Bill SB 56, sponsored by Senator John Schmidt.

Dear Senator Esp:

I am a strong proponent of Senate Bill SB 56.

As a partner in a Real Estate Investment Co, I have been involved in three Real Estate Subdivisions in Missoula County. As a condition of approval the County mandated Home/Landowner Association for each one, with the stipulation that sufficient funds be collected from the Association members to maintain roads, snow plowing, dust control, etc, the same reason we pay the County Taxes. Members of Home Owner/Landowners Associations do not have the option of not paying Association fees or County taxes, except by selling the property. In light of this, I consider Home Owner/Land Owner Associations to be a quasi public entity, and should have the protection of the open meeting laws.

As a retired Bank President, I have served on many Board of Directors, public and private, profit and non-profit. Nothing can destroy the trust of the membership more than closed Director meetings, no matter what they call them: retreats, discussion, work shop, what ever. The conception is always the same, the Board is hiding something from the members.

Please support Bill SB 56.

J. Bewick

John Bewick
PO Box 746
Seeley Lake, MT.
59868

January 23, 2009

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Local Government Committee
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, Mt. 59620-0500

Ref.

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